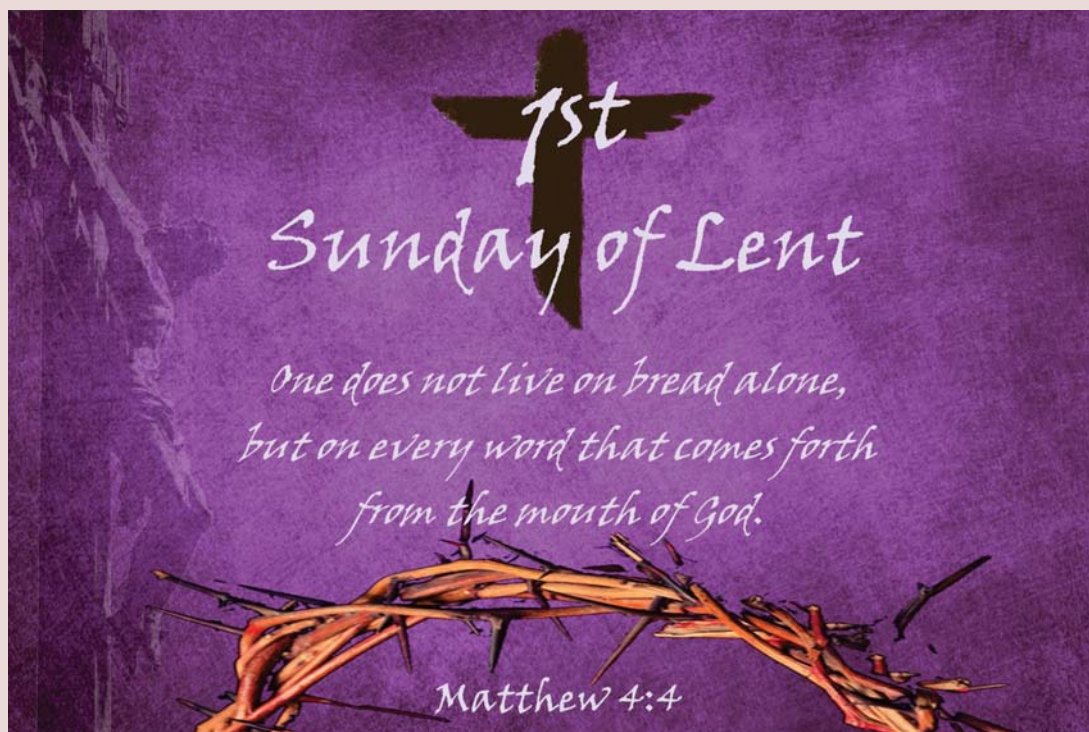


Braintree Catholic Collaborative



St. Francis of Assisi Church

856 Washington Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30PM
Sunday: 9:00, 11:30AM and
6:00PM

Monday –Friday: 7:00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 12:30-1:30PM

St. Clare of Assisi Church

1244 Liberty Street
Braintree, Massachusetts

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM
Sunday: 7:45, 10:15AM

Saturday: 8:00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: Following the 8AM Mass

Collaborative Staff

Rev. Robert M. Blaney, Pastor
Rev. Kevin P. Leaver, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Joseph MacDonald, Collaborative Deacon/
Music Director
Deacon James Waldron, Collaborative Deacon
Mrs. Karen Lane, Director of Religious Education
Ms. Patty Kinnally, Office Manager
Mr. Kevin Mercier, Business Manager
Mr. Cecil O'Brien, Facilities
Mrs. Karen Whitney, Receptionist
Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, In Residence
Rev. Wellington Oliveira, In Residence
Deacon Michael Cavanaugh, Senior Deacon

Contact Information

www.braintreecatholic.org
781-843-1332 | Fax: 781-848-0976

Collaborative Office and Mailing Address

856 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00AM-4:00PM
Friday: 9:00-1:00

Sacrament of Marriage

A minimum of six months notice is required. Please call the Collaborative Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a venue.

Sacrament of Baptism

2nd Sunday of the month at St. Clare at **1:00PM**
3rd Sunday of the month at St. Francis at **1:00PM**
Please call the Collaborative Office to register

Sacrament of the Sick & Communion Calls

Please notify the Collaborative Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

Bulletin Deadline

All requests must be submitted to the Collaborative Office by Monday at 1PM. Email to parish@sfab.org

Mass Intentions

St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, February 21, 2026

5:30PM Theresa Ann Smith 23rd Anniv.

Sunday, February 22, 2026

9:00AM Benjamin Venuti Anniversary

11:30AM Adeline Miscioscia Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative

Monday, February 23, 2026

7:00AM George W. Whalen Memorial

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

7:00AM Helen Murphy Spec. Intent.

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

7:00AM Mary Ann Guay 5th Anniv.

Thursday, February 26, 2026

7:00AM John McKeough and
Nathan Watson Memorial

Friday, February 27, 2026

7:00AM Nicholas DeAngelo Anniversary

Saturday, February 28, 2026

5:30PM Maggie Hayes Campbell 22nd anniv.

Sunday, March 1, 2026

9:00AM Mary & John O'Neil and
Genevieve McCarthy Anniversary

11:30AM Kathleen, Garrett and
Heather Fitzgerald Memorial

6:00PM Parishioners of the Collaborative



If you are interested in the Online Giving option for either parish to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the collaborative office or scan the QR code below.



Mass Intentions

St. Clare

Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:00AM Robert & Joan Anthony Memorial

4:00PM Gordon T. Smith Memorial

Sunday, February 22, 2026

7:45AM Jeanette Vacca 4th Anniv.

10:15AM Marlene Gunn 1st Anniv.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00AM Stephen Dooley and
Departed Family Members Memorial

4:00PM Maria Tempesta and Deceased
Members of Tempesta Family Memorial

Sunday, March 1, 2026

7:45AM Kha Van Ho Memorial

10:15AM Barbara Wallace and
David Wallace 12th Anniv.
4th Anniv.

Info and events of note

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Open Thursdays at St. Francis from 10AM-12NN.** If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need.
- **Collaborative Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the Collaborative office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office.
- **AI-Anon ...** Tuesdays at 10:30 in St. Clare Church Hall
- **Boy Scout Troop #138 ...** Wednesdays at 7:00PM in St. Clare Church Hall.—Contact John Collier at 781-843-3330
- **Braintree Knights of Columbus...** Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church Hall.
- **Community Meal...** 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM in St. Francis church hall.

Please call the collaborative office for more information.





LENT

Originally, Lent was a time of intense preparation for those who were to be baptized at Easter. As it became more normative to baptize infants, the season of Lent became a time for the baptized to renew their baptism. Since one of the primary effects of Baptism is the absolution of sin, Lent took on a penitential nature.

The first reading for today's Mass from the opening chapters of the Book of Genesis tells the story of how sin entered the world. It is a familiar paradigm for us: God offered Paradise but we wanted something more. Ultimately the something more was to be God! Such was the temptation of the woman and man in Eden! How soon they learned that they could not be God. Nonetheless, humanity has been wrestling with the same temptation ever since.

Our faith professes that God took on our human nature in the person of Jesus whose ultimate sacrifice made possible the forgiveness of sins. Before Jesus, people recognized the need for forgiveness, but recognized that their meager attempts at reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of produce and livestock wasn't working. Something else was needed. We rely on the "something else" who is Christ. Through Him the forgiveness of sins is made possible.

Lent, therefore, should be seen as an opportunity to start over again. The reason we need another chance is despite our best intentions, we continue to sin. Such is the human condition.

The Gospel used on Ash Wednesday outlines the manner by which we are to use this time for the renewal of Baptism. These are the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Whatever you do for Lent should be focused on the **renewal of your own Baptism** which will happen during Easter Sunday Mass. As stated above, Lent is tied directly to Baptism. As most of us were baptized as infants, we have no recollection of the day and rely on parents to verify that we were, in fact, baptized. Part of the ritual for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection on Easter is that, once again, we state out loud that we reject sin and believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As you take on the Lenten disciplines, keep the renewal of Baptism in mind. It provides the context for what we do as Christ's disciples.

You will notice some slight **changes in the Sunday Masses during Lent**. The priest and deacon are clad in

violet vestments. This color is intended to call to mind the penitential nature of the season. Also, we do not say or sing the word "Alleluia". The idea is that by surprising it for the weeks of Lent, it conveys a level of joy once we come to Easter. In a similar way we do not use the "Gloria" during the weeks of Lent. Its absence allows for a more subdued feeling during the season.

The collaborative is hosting a **Lenten retreat** on Monday, March 9 to Wednesday, March 11. I encourage you to participate in all or any part of the retreat which will take place each evening at 7:00. The theme of the retreat is penance. Appropriately so, we will incorporate a penance service as part of the Tuesday evening service.

If you are interested in learning more about the teachings of the **Second Vatican Council**, join us on the Saturday mornings of Lent from 9:00-10:15 at St. Clare Church. Don't worry if you were not there this past Saturday. We will do a quick review before we get into the new material.



Lenten Calendar

Mondays at St. Francis

Eucharistic Adoration 6:00—7:15PM; Scriptural Rosary followed by Benediction 6:45PM; Confessions 6:30-7:15PM

Fridays at St. Francis

Stations of the Cross at 12:10PM

Saturdays at St. Clare

Mini Course on the Second Vatican Council

Collaborative Lenten Mission

Monday, March 9 and Wednesday, March 11 at St. Francis and Tuesday, March 10 at St. Clare

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2026 YEAR A

SUNDAY Feb 22	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
MONDAY Feb 23	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
TUESDAY Feb 24	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
WEDNESDAY Feb 25	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-1/Lk 11:29-32
THURSDAY Feb 26	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
FRIDAY Feb 27	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
SATURDAY Feb 28	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
SUNDAY Mar 1	Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



From
Deacon Joe MacDonald

I think we can all agree that Jesus came to usher in a new creation. Today's readings begin with the first creation and the first time that humans were tempted to sin. Poor Adam and Eve what defense did they have? That isn't to say they didn't have any choice. They could have said no to the serpent.

Jesus on the other hand, being tempted in the desert, used Sacred Scripture, the Word of God, to defend Himself against the wiles of the devil. Jesus uses the Torah to defend Himself "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3) Having failed the first time Satan then used Scripture Himself to tempt the Lord. Again, Jesus responds with the Torah. "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." (Deuteronomy 6:16) Satan, got desperate and tried using something that has often worked against humans – power and riches and fame. Jesus counters with this quote "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." (Deuteronomy 6:16) Jesus could not be scammed by Satan's deceit and he gave up and left Jesus alone.

We might think that Adam and Eve didn't have the Torah. They didn't have the Word of God to defend themselves with. That's not actually the case. Adam did have the Word that was spoken to him directly. "The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die. (Genesis 2:16-17) When tempted Eve use what God said but she was tricked into not believing God's Word. She ate. Adam ate, and death entered the world. They didn't physically die right away but there was a spiritual death that came immediately. I'm reminded of an old bumper sticker I saw in the 70's it read "God said it. I Believe it. That settles it." If only Adam and Eve had that attitude.

What can we learn from all this? That knowledge of Scripture is important in our spiritual warfare. I'm reminded of one of my favorite verses from the prophet Jeremiah "When I found your words, I devoured them; they became my joy and the happiness of my heart." (Jeremiah 15:16)

Saint Paul encourages believers to use God's Word as a sword in our spiritual battles. He tells us:

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities,

with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.

Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** (Ephesians 6:10-17)

We can't use Sacred Scripture unless we read, understand, and apply it in our lives. How many of us don't even own a Bible? Where can we start? Let me give you a couple of suggestions. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website has both an online Bible <https://bible.usccb.org/bible> and it also offers the faithful a calendar <https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar> that gives us the readings for each day of the year. I would also like to recommend a couple of apps for your smart phone that help us pray the Liturgy of the Hours (also called the Divine Office) they are "Divine Office" and "LBreviary." You can use these apps to pray with Scripture during the day. You may also like a podcast called "The Liturgy of the Hours in Song." It is my deepest wish that all people find God's Word in Sacred Scripture and devour it and let it become the joy and happiness of every heart.

I'd like to announce that this week I have started a blog called "A Cigar with God 2.0" you can find it at <https://acigarwithgod.blogspot.com>. Check it out and if you like what you read follow me there and tell your friends. Thanks!



The Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026 in the St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall at 6:30 p.m.. A traditional corned beef and/or ham dinner will be served, lively entertainment provided by the incomparable *The Next Hurrah* and a few surprises. As the time draws near we will sell tickets after Masses if necessary but for now please call the Collaborative Office for tickets at 781-843-1332. The cost per ticket is \$ 35.00. Tickets are first come first served. Tables of 8 may be reserved with payment in full of \$280.00. Let's get together and have some *craic*!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS



I hope everyone had a fabulous February break! We are in Week 1 of Lent - you can use the green sheet from your "Lent in a Bag" (or any paper) to log your prayer/fasting/giving. You can put them in your bag, or bring them to RE class and we will display them.

Why do we PRAY * FAST * GIVE during Lent?

- We PRAY - we try to pray more, maybe by adding a prayer at breakfast or before bed, to grow closer to Jesus.
- We FAST - we give up something we enjoy (like sweets, screens, or video games) to prove that Jesus is more important than those things. It trains our hearts to say "no" to small desires so we can say "yes" to God.
- We GIVE - we share our money, time, or toys/books with others, especially those in need, to show love and kindness, just as Jesus did.

HALF DAY HANGOUT!! Thursday February 26 1:00-4:00

Join us in the St. Clare RE Hall after the school early release. Bring lunch and a drink, and we will watch a video and play games. The kids will work on a Lenten display for the churches. Email Karen Lane klane@sfab.org if your child would like to attend.



WHERE IS FLAT LEO??

Today we find him in the RE Hall with Mrs. Lane checking out our Hall of Saints display!

We are going to take more photos with Flat Leo around the churches and mail the pictures and a Flat Leo to kids in RE

classes at parishes all around the US, and ask them to email a picture of them with Flat Leo to us! Then we will track the adventures of Leo on a map in the RE Hall!

If anyone has friends or family in a parish in another state, feel free to email the information to Karen Lane for our project! klane@sfab.org.



If you still have palms from last year, please don't throw them out. You can bring them to church. There are baskets to place them in - last year's palms from Palm Sunday can be burned to make ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday!



Summer Camp registrations are starting! Please Save the week of July 13-17 to join us for a really fun VBS! Email Karen Lane at klane@sfab.org if your child is interested!

TRUE or FALSE ?

1. God formed man out of the clay of the ground.
2. God planted a garden in the west.
3. The tree of life was just outside the garden.
4. The serpent was not very intelligent.
5. The serpent promised Eve that she would not die if she ate the fruit.
6. When sin entered the world, death came also.
7. Jesus went into the wilderness by chance.
8. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights.
9. The devil suggested to Jesus that he turn stones into money.
10. Satan promised to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world..

ANSWERS

1 true, 2 false, 3 false, 4 false, 5 true, 6 true, 7 false, 8 true, 9 false, 10 true.

Sunday Funday © Pilot Bulletins





February 22: First Sunday of Lent

Lent is a call to “give alms for the poor.” Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Is there a family in our collaborative you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor.

Pantry donations can be dropped off at the Collaborative office during normal business hours (M-F 9-4). **Blue envelopes are in holders on the back inside wall of the church. Please use them for your cash, check (written to St. Vincent DePaul with SFA on the memo line), or gift card—and place them into the collection basket or through the rectory mail slot.**



Bereavement Support Group

Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? If you are interested in talking about your grief and need support in your grief healing, we are again beginning our bereavement classes. They will be every Saturday at 10:30AM at St. Francis of Assisi church hall. The hour-long meeting will help you bring your suffering to the Lord and also allow you to know others who are going through something similar.

Meetings will meet weekly from 10:30—11:30AM. No sign-up or commitment, just a place to come and find comfort.

“What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we loved deeply becomes part of us.”

Helen Keller



The Community Meal Ministry is in need of another Chef. The Chef would be a team member and would be responsible to cook once every four months in rotation. If you have any experience as a chef we would

love to talk to you about this important and fulfilling volunteer position. ServSafe certification would be a plus but is not required. If interested please email Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea at Kathywg@sfab.org or call Patty in the Collaborative Office.

It is time for CORIs to be renewed even if you have just recently submitted one. For the Community Meal volunteers, Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea will be doing CORIs for the volunteers at the March 4th Meal.

If it is convenient for you please come to the Parish Hall before the Meal from 3:00- 5:00 and complete your CORI Application.



If you are a registered parishioner who utilizes the parish envelope system or the online giving option and would like a copy of your total contributions for 2025 please call the collaborative office at 781-843-1332. **In accordance with federal regulations contribution statements have been mailed to any parishioner who has made a single contribution of \$250 or more.** If you do not currently utilize the parish envelope or online giving system, but would like to; or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Patty Kinnally in the collaborative office.



From the Archdiocese of Boston

Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (2/28, 4/11, 5/16)

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Upcoming dates are Saturday, February 28 (Greater Boston), Saturday, April 11 (Merrimack Valley), and Saturday, May 16 (Boston/South). Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

The Parent's Eye: A Spirituality of Parenting (3/21)

Calling all parents! This workshop, which will be held on March 21, is designed to help you grow closer to God through your experience of parenthood. Presentations, guided reflection, and prayer will help participants explore how to cultivate an everyday spirituality of parenting. By reflecting on their own parenting experiences, participants will grow in awareness of the perfect love that God, our Divine Parent, has for them and for all people. Light refreshments and childcare provided. For more information and registration, visit bit.ly/ParentsEyeWorkshop.

Annual Mass with Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf

Join Bishop Cristiano Barbosa for a Mass with persons with disabilities and the Deaf community on April 12 at 2PM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Reception to follow at Cathedral High School. The Mass will be accessible for all and include a sensory-friendly space, ASL interpreters, Braille and large print worship aids. For more information and registration, visit bit.ly/MWPWDD2026

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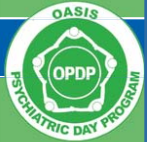
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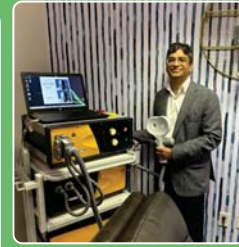
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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35


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"He has risen." Matt 28:6


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